

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 251534Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 980
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1421

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG SU LY ET DO UR
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE COOPERATION AGAINST LIBYAN-ETHIOPIAN
MACHINATIONS AGAINST NUMAYRI

REF (A) CAIRO 816 (B) CAIRO 911

1. SUDANESE POLOFF TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 23 THAT ALTHOUGH
PRESS ANNOUNCED JOINT GOE-GOS DEFENSE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN
SIGNED JANUARY 15 (REFTELS), IN FACT, EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE
HAD AGREED TO JOINT PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST LIBYAN ANTI-NUMAYRI
MACHINATIONS. JOINT ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTED JULY 1976 JOINT
DEFENSE AGREEMENT. SUDANESE POLOFF COMMENTED THAT PLAN INCLUDES
SPECIFIC MILITARY STEPS TO BE TAKEN AGAINST LIBYAN-BACKED
ANSAR REBELS, NOT ONLY IN ETHIOPIA, BUT ALSO IN CHAD AND
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LIBYA. PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED N "NEAR FUTURE" IF THERE
NO RELAXATION OF ANSWAR POSTURE. GOS, HE SAID, MORE CONCERNED
WITH ARMED ANSAR PRESENCE ALONG VOLATILE SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN
BORDER AREA THAN WITH ANSAR REBELS IN CHAD AND LIBYA, SINCE
WESTERN SUDAN TRADITIONAL ANSAR AGREA AND GOS RESIGNED TO
FACT.

2. SUDANESE POLOFFS COMMENTED THAT, IN SUDANESE EMBASSY VIEW, THERE CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION IN PRESS ABOUT SOVIET WEAPONS IN ETHIOPIA. SUDANESE BELIEVE THAT ARMS TRANSPORTED IN BULGARIAN AIRCRAFT TO ADDIS ABABA (REFTEL B) WERE IN FACT LIBYAN WEAPONS INTENDED FOR ANSAR. SUDANESE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DECEMBER 1976 VISIT TO MOSCOW OF ETHIOPIAN MILITARY DELEGATION RESULTED IN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ETHIOPIA WITH SOME WEAPONS, PARTICULARLY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AND PROBABLY WITH LIBYAN FINANCING.

3. WHY IS ETHIOPIA PLAYING LIBYA'S GAME? SUDANESE OPINED THAT QADHAFI HAS PROBABLY AGREED TO SUSPEND LIBYAN BACKING (FOR THE MOMENT) OF ERITREAN REBELS AND OFFERED CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL BLANDISHMENTS TO HARD-PRESSED EPMG IN RETURN FOR ETHIOPIAN SUPPORT FOR ANSAR. SUDANESE POLOFF DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF SOVIETS IN CURRENT SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN CRISIS, STATING THAT QADHAFI MAINLY RESPONSIBLE AND THAT EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ACTION PLAN AT THIS STAGE ONLY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

4. WHAT WILL BE SUDANESE RESPONSE IF PROVOCATIONS CONTINUE: SUDANESE POLOFF STATED THAT SPECIFIC MILITARY OPERATIONS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH EGYPTIANS, BUT SUDANESE ALSO STUDING OPTIONS SUCH AS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN REBELS OR FOR EDU FORCES. SUDANESE ESTIMATE THAT ETHIOPIA IS ON VERGE OF DISINTEGRATION AND EPMG WILL ATTEMPT TO VITIATE JOINT SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN EFFORTS BY REDUCING SUPPORT FOR ANSAR.

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